

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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## STANDARDS AND LABELING COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Committee on Standards and Labeling, which met at the offices of the Association the week of August 27th and formulated general recommendations as to descriptive labeling of canned foods, will meet again on September 25th to put into form for presentation to the National Recovery Administration definite recommendations for at least four important products.

Since the meeting in August the various subcommittees appointed at that time to work on labeling plans for twenty some individual products have been assembling suggestions, and it is hoped that the general committee will be able to develop definite recommendations for more than the four products which it was arranged would be submitted.

## MODIFICATION OF P. R. A. AGAIN EXTENDED FOR MEAT PACKERS

It has been announced that the modification of Paragraph 3 of the President's Reemployment agreement, to permit certain employees in the meat packing industry to work more than the hours prescribed, had been extended to October 10. The modification was granted originally on June 13, on recommendation by the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation. Successive extensions have since been granted.

## TWO BULLETINS ISSUED BY CANNING CODE AUTHORITY

Bulletins No. 10 and No. 11 of the Code Authority for the Canning Industry were mailed under dates of September 17 and 18, respectively, to members of the industry.

Employment in the packing of perishable, with special reference to the provisions governing hours of male and female workers, was the chief subject of Bulletin No. 10, which also announced the resignation of Mr. Francis A. Harding as Chairman of the Code Authority and the election of Vice Chairman Ralph O. Dulany to fill the vacancy. Mr. Porter S. Lucas has resigned as member of the Code Authority, likewise Mr. A. J. Cordier as Administration member. A successor to Mr. Lucas will be recommended by the Board of Directors of the National

Canners Association. Mr. Frank Gerber has resigned as Treasurer of the Code Authority, and Executive Secretary E. G. Montgomery elected to succeed him, thus combining the offices of Executive Secretary and Treasurer.

The obligation to comply with provisions of other codes and liability for assessments of other codes are discussed in Bulletin No. 11.

#### N. C. A. MEMBERSHIP LIST DISTRIBUTED

Copies of the Membership List of the National Canners Association, corrected to August 22d, have been mailed to members. Copies are also being sent to the members of the National Food Brokers Association, National American Wholesale Grocers Association, United States Wholesale Grocers Association, and a selected list of chain stores. Any member who failed to receive a copy is requested to advise this office promptly.

#### WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the last week rainfall has been above normal in most of the canning areas east of the great plains. The tomato canning sections of Maryland received from 4.3 to 8.5 inches of rain during the week ended September 18. This was about double the normal precipitation and quite damaging to tomatoes. Virginia likewise received above normal rain, especially in the eastern shore district. Excessive rains have reduced the tomato pack materially in both Maryland and Virginia.

Indiana rainfall was slightly above normal during the week, but not so damaging to tomatoes as in the eastern states. Southern Missouri reported rainfall above normal, but the tomato canning district of Arkansas continued dry. In both these sections, however, the tomato pack this year is considerably below average. Many sections report practically a failure. A large number of plants are not operating.

Kentucky and Tennessee rainfall was ample but not excessive except in a few districts. Tomato canning conditions appear fair in both states.

Utah yields are reported to be below last year, but packing conditions are fairly good.

Frost will be the principal determining factor as to the amount of vegetables packed during the remainder of the season. During the last week frosts were reported south to northern Indiana and south central Iowa, but there was very little damage as they were mostly light, except in the central-northern states, where more or less harm occurred to tender vegetables and some corn. The following table contains the earliest and average



Following is a statement prepared by the Livestock Purchase Committee of the AAA and released by the Department of Agriculture September 22, 1934.

CATTLE PURCHASES TO TOTAL 6 1/2 MILLION HEAD BY SEPT. 29.

Approximately 6,500,000 head of drought cattle will have been purchased by the government by September 29th when present cattle purchases quotas expire, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration estimated today. Purchases amounted to 5,900,000 head at the close of business September 17th.

Purchases from now until the last of the month will be made only in the areas where the situation is most acute, and only from producers who do not have sufficient feed to maintain their animals. The principal purpose of the cattle-purchase program is to remove animals for which the farmer or rancher has no adequate feed supply.

Buying has been temporarily halted in nine drought states, but is proceeding in varying volume in the other states until September 29th. No authorization has been given in any states for continuation of purchases after that date. Authorizations and quotas for purchases after that date will be issued several days in advance in order that there will be no interruption in the purchasing program.

One reason for the slowing-down of buying is that officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration wish to study the livestock feed situation closely and make an adequate appraisal of the stocks of feed on hand, and ascertain how readily it can be moved into the areas where it is needed. Data on this are now being collected throughout the country by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and on the basis of this study the future policy with regard to cattle purchases will be determined.

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Another reason for "tapering off" purchases is that present allotments of money for this purpose are limited and no further allotments are planned until the need for further purchases has been studied.

In the meantime, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is making a strong effort to balance the supply of livestock feed against the demand for the coming winter. The Federal Livestock Feed Agency has been established at Kansas City and is gathering data on all suitable feed stocks in the country. This agency will inform groups and individuals, who wish to purchase feed, where proper feeds may be had.

Still another reason for reducing the volume of purchases, and one which officials feel is by no means the least important, is the definite fact that the government does not wish to hamper livestock producers in the future by reducing below the safety mark the numbers of good breeding stock.

"We consider it particularly important to conserve the foundation herds," said Chester C. Davis, administrator of the AAA. "Cattle numbers of the country are being considerably cut by the drought and by our purchasing program which the drought made necessary. This will mean, of course, that a year from now market supplies of cattle will be sharply reduced and cattle prices probably will be materially higher. Therefore, it is essential to the welfare of the producer, and of the consumer as well, that we do not reduce the number of cattle, especially breeding animals, too drastically."

While purchases are being slowed down, processing of the drought cattle for relief purposes continues. Reports indicate that approximately two and three quarters million head have been processed with additional millions on pasture awaiting processing.



frost dates for many of the canning districts. These records are from the U. S. Weather Bureau's experience during the last 50 years.

District	Earliest date	Average date of first frost
Southern Maine	Sept. 11	Oct. 17
Western New York	Oct. 2	Oct. 22
Central New York	Sept. 21	Oct. 22
Maryland	Oct. 2	Oct. 20
Eastern Virginia	Oct. 11	Nov. 16
Central Virginia	Oct. 12	Nov. 2
Western Virginia	Oct. 2	Oct. 27
South Central Ohio	Sept. 21	Oct. 19
Central Indiana	Sept. 21	Oct. 20
Central Illinois	Sept. 26	Oct. 19
Northern Illinois	Sept. 20	Oct. 19
Southern Wisconsin	Sept. 16	Oct. 17
Southern Minnesota	Sept. 13	Oct. 10
Central Iowa	Sept. 13	Oct. 9
Western Iowa-Eastern Nebraska	Sept. 18	Oct. 15
Eastern Tennessee	Oct. 1	Oct. 29
Central Tennessee	Oct. 8	Oct. 28
Southern Missouri and Northwest Arkansas	Sept. 30	Oct. 22

#### CIRCULARS AVAILABLE ON CANNING OF BEEF

The Federal Surplus Relief Corporation has just issued Schedule 102 asking for bids on the canning of beef and veal during the month of October. Copies of this schedule may be obtained from the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, 1734 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Research Laboratory of the National Canners Association has prepared, after conference with the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, a circular furnishing suggestions for the canning of beef, which will be of interest to vegetable canners who are engaged in beef canning under the program of the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation. The circular deals with the handling of frozen meat, methods of parboiling, and basis of payment for processing. Copies of the circular will be supplied to canners on request.

#### FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET COMPETITION

Carlot shipments as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Week ending Sept. 8, 1934	Week ending Sept. 15, 1934		Total for season through Sept. 15, 1934	
	1934	1934	1933	1934	1933
Beans, snap and lima	23	13	13	12,402	10,056
Tomatoes	194	355	277	21,238	18,780
Green peas	137	135	121	5,750	7,611
All other vegetables—					
Domestic:					
Competing directly	3,235	3,090	2,846	137,626	120,320
Competing indirectly	29	54	35	286	201
Fruits:					
Citrus, domestic	1,328	1,377	1,600	121,101	121,583
Imports	76	78	55	256	131
Others, domestic	3,050	3,236	4,580	57,041	45,537
Index of fresh vegetable prices	70	72	101		
Index of canned vegetable prices	87	87	67		



## SUPERVISORY INSPECTION OF SEAFOOD

Under date of September 14th the Department of Agriculture promulgated certain amendments to the regulations governing the inspection of canned shrimp issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on August 2nd. The Department of Agriculture has also issued proposed regulations for supervisory inspection of canned tuna, sardines, mackerel, bonita, yellowtail, shad, and canned products containing such fish.

These proposed regulations have been distributed generally by the Department of Agriculture to canners of these products and criticism of them or suggestions regarding them is invited by the Food and Drug Administration. Such criticism or suggestions should be in the hands of the Food and Drug Administration by October 1st of this year.

Following consideration of the comments received, the regulations will be drafted in final form and promulgated for the guidance of packers who desire the inspection authorized by the recent amendment to the Food and Drugs Act.

## PACK OF SHRIMP

The following table shows the pack of shrimp during the week of August 30 through September 5, the week of September 6-12, inclusive, and the total pack from August 2 through September 12, as compiled by the Shrimp Section of the National Canners Association.

	Aug. 30 Sept. 5	Sept. 6- Sept. 12	Aug. 2- Sept. 12
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Cases</i>
East Coast .....	3,640	5,865	29,401
Alabama and Louisiana .....	32,385	56,398	290,165
Mississippi .....	7,203	11,274	38,633
Texas .....	2,500	2,500	9,011
	<hr/> 45,728	<hr/> 76,037	<hr/> 274,210

## MORE RECIPROCAL TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED

The procedure in reciprocal tariff negotiations was outlined in last week's Information Letter and information given as to countries with which negotiations were pending or in prospect. These countries included Haiti, Colombia, Brazil and Belgium.

Further announcement has been made as to negotiations with Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Sweden. The latest date for submitting written statements and making application for oral presentation in connection with the negotiations with the Central American countries named is October 15; the date for oral presentation of views is October 22.



On the proposed agreement with Sweden the latest date for submitting written statements is October 29, and the oral presentation of views is set for November 5.

#### FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT PACK IN 1933-34

Statistics on the Florida pack of grapefruit and grapefruit juice, collected by the Jacksonville district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, show that the grapefruit pack in the 1933-34 season was equivalent to 2,184,577 cases of 24 No. 2's, an increase of 22,602 cases over the preceding season. The grapefruit juice pack in 1933-34 was equivalent to 610,115 cases of No. 2's, a decrease of 115,852 cases from the preceding season. The following table shows the pack by sizes of containers during the two seasons:

	Grapefruit		Grapefruit Juice	
	1932-33	1933-34	1932-33	1933-34
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
No. 5 (12 to case).....	73,822	92,393	65,708	56,012
8-oz. (48 to case).....	193,313	197,303	25,235	6,727
8-oz. (72 to case).....	12,112	22,671		
No. 2 (24 to case).....	1,815,824	1,725,737	422,033	394,659
No. 1 (48 to case).....	10,981	5,887	115,589	57,010
300 x 411 (48 to case).....	28,045	41,418		
300 x 407 (48 to case).....	4,188			
12-oz. (24 to case).....			80,150	67,008
16-oz. (12 to case).....			2,315	
300 x 407 (30 to case).....		60,000	9,690	23,741
13½-oz. (24 to case).....			1,992	
Total.....	2,138,285	2,145,400	722,721	605,817
Equivalent No. 2's (24 to case)...	2,161,975	2,184,577	725,967	610,115

#### MECHANICAL INJURY TO SEED BEANS OF LIMA TYPE

In recent years difficulty has been experienced, particularly in the East, in securing good stands of lima beans because of poor germination of seed, the cause of which, according to various investigations, is mechanical injury during threshing or handling. The agricultural experiment station at Berkeley, Calif., has now issued a bulletin (No. 580) on thresher and other mechanical injury to seed beans of the lima type, giving the results of studies it has conducted. Following is a summary of the findings as presented in the bulletin:

Many types of beans are damaged for seed purposes at the time of threshing, or later, during the milling and handling operation. The lima varieties appear to be the most difficult to thresh without injury. Damage may be either visible or internal. The latter is more serious because it cannot be detected until the seeds are germinated. Beans so injured produce mutilated seedlings in which parts are either missing or broken.

Peripheral velocity is a more satisfactory basis than speed of rotation for comparing the effects of cylinders having different diameters and operating at different speeds.

Cylinder speed and percentage of damage are directly related; the greater the speed, the greater the damage. Total damage to a lot of baby lima beans, containing 9.1 per cent moisture, varied from 7.6 to 52.5 per cent at threshing speeds of 770 to 1,560 feet per minute.

A lot of baby lima beans containing 16.4 per cent moisture showed 1.0 and 21.0 per cent damage, respectively, at cylinder speed of 770 and 1,785 feet per minute.

High moisture content in the beans permits higher cylinder speeds to be used without an increase in the total damage.

The cylinder speeds required to produce 15.0 per cent total damage in Fordhook beans containing 15.9, 17.3, and 18.8 per cent moisture were 1,150, 1,330, and 1,600 feet per minute, respectively.

A thresher having only one cylinder is not suitable for seed beans, because the speed necessary for thoroughness is too high for the production of damage-free seed.

A low speed on the first cylinder of a two or three-cylinder machine usually insures the threshing of a high percentage of the crop with a minimum of damage. If speed on successive cylinders is increased, the threshing can be completed without damaging a high percentage of the seed.

More damage apparently occurs during light feeding of the threshing machine than during ordinary or heavy feeding. For example, the total damage to Fordhook beans containing 14.6 per cent moisture amounted to 11.4, 8.6, and 7.4 per cent, respectively, for light, ordinary, and heavy feeding.

Fordhook beans carefully threshed with the ordinary disk harrow, set straight, showed only 1.2 per cent total damage.

The total damage to four lots of baby lima beans, threshed by rolling, varied from 2.6 to 38.1 per cent.

According to laboratory tests in which beans of various moisture contents were subjected to impacts of equal intensity by dropping them known distances, beans of high moisture receive less damage than beans of low moisture. The results agree with those obtained from threshing tests in the field.

Moisture content is of fundamental importance in the threshing of seed beans. Although uncontrollable, it is nevertheless an important guide in determining how high a cylinder speed may be used with safety.

The fast-moving cup-type elevators and the steep slides found in bean warehouses are the most likely points where damage to seed beans during handling may occur. Beans of 10.6 per cent moisture content, rolled down a 45° slide, showed total damage of approximately 4.5, 8.6, and 15.3 per cent, respectively, for slide distances of 6.4, 10.5, and 15.0 feet. Comparative tests showed that neither the 'plate nor the pick-up type of planter produces any appreciable amount of damage.

#### CANNING AND PACKING MACHINERY CODE AUTHORITY

The National Recovery Administration announced on September 17th its recognition of the following as members of the Code Authority for the canning and packing machinery industry: Ogden Sells, San Jose, Calif.; John C. Allbright, Chicago, Ill.; John Dupps, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio; R. A. Sindall, Baltimore, Md.; Frank C. Chapman, Berlin, Wis.; Lee W. Duer, Elgin, Ill.; W. E. Nicholoy, Columbus, Ohio; R. T. Randall, Philadelphia, Pa.; and L. J. Meages, St. Louis, Mo.

#### AUSTRALIAN CANNED FRUIT EXPORTS

Australian canned fruit exports, according to official Australian statistics, increased in volume from 39,254,000 pounds in 1932-33 to 59,781,000 pounds in 1933-34, while the value of the shipments showed a gain of over 200,000 pounds sterling. The recovery in the export trade is ascribed to the new policy of the Commonwealth Canned Fruits Control Board, which at the end of 1933 reduced the minimum price at which Australian canned fruits could be sold in 1934 on the London market, thus bringing about a greatly increased business in Great Britain.

#### FARM AND WHOLESALE PRICES

The upward trend of market prices of the principal farm products that has been under way since mid-June continued through August according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Indications in mid-September are that the level of farm prices is now somewhat higher than in mid-August when they averaged 87 per cent of pre-war. Market prices of cotton during the past month have been relatively steady but grain prices have continued to advance and prices of most livestock and livestock products have advanced much more than seasonal during the past month.

The sharp advance in farm and food prices during August resulted in an advance in the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of the general level of wholesale prices from 109.1 per cent of the 1910-1914 average for the last week of July to 113.1 for the last week of August. Market prices of farm products advanced

from 90.5 to 103.1 and food prices advanced from 109.8 to 118.8 per cent of the pre-war level during this period. Prices of non-agricultural products showed little change during August, slight advances in the prices of fuel and lighting, chemicals and drugs and miscellaneous commodities being offset by declines in prices of hides and leather, textiles, metals, building materials and house furnishings.

#### FROZEN AND PRESERVED FRUITS IN COLD STORAGE

The following table shows the holdings of fruit in cold storage reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of September 1, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

	Sept. 1, 1934	Sept. 1, 1933	Five-year average
Pears:			
Boxes .....	1,727,000	647,000	972,000
Baskets .....	108,000	122,000	212,000
Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds)...	71,513,000	67,631,000	82,707,000

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